

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April. Claims 2 to 9 are currently in the application, with claim 1 having been cancelled herein. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 8 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 2 to 9 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As set forth above, Applicants have amended claims 2, 3, 5 and 8 to be in independent form. Claim 4, which depends from claim 3, claims 6 and 7, which depend from claim 5, and claim 9, which depends from claim 8, have been left in dependent form.

Claim 1 was provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Application No. 11/790,759 ("Nishina") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,343,467 ("Muto"). Without conceding the correctness of this provisional rejection, and in an effort to expedite the issuance of allowable subject matter, Applicants have cancelled claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Accordingly, this provisional rejection has been rendered moot.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502203 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Application No.: 10/575,476

Applicants' undersigned representative may be reached in our Orange County, California office at the telephone number shown below. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the address associated with the customer number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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